

Stock judging competitions at the large and small fairs is a feature to be commended. Exhibitors should willingly assist those in charge of the competition by bringing out their stock for the young men to work on.

While the prices of butcher stock are high it might be a good time to cull the breeding herd. Some of the females do not fill your eye and others may be shy breeders, why not get rid of them now and leave more room for the good things?

The Canadian National Exhibition, the greatest on the continent, is in full swing and those unable to attend miss a treat, but remember that the Western and Ottawa Fairs are on the week of September 11 to 18, and are worthy of patronage.

That rape field sown early in July should be about ready to turn the stock on. Keep an eye on the animals the first week or ten days, as some animals have been known to bloat when first turned on this luxuriant growth of green forage.

The hog pastures become bare about this time of year, but green feed is just as essential to growth and health of the swine now as in the early summer. Green corn, rape or second-growth clover may be cut and fed to the hogs in pens or paddocks.

Many stables require re-flooring. Concrete makes a permanent floor and is not difficult to construct. However, cement is expensive and hard to procure this fall, consequently anyone contemplating making repairs to the stable should get the material on the ground.

The catch of seeds this year is good and there may be a temptation to turn the stock on them. If there is a good top the cattle may not do much harm provided it is dry, but care should be taken not to pasture close. The meadows with a good top in the fall are the ones to come through the winter in the best condition.

The 1920 harvest of spring grains has been very gratifying, and in most localities the corn crop is promising. With abundance of good roughage the problem of wintering and feeding cattle in 1920-21 should not be so difficult as during the past two winters. There is no better way of marketing farm crops than through the medium of live stock.

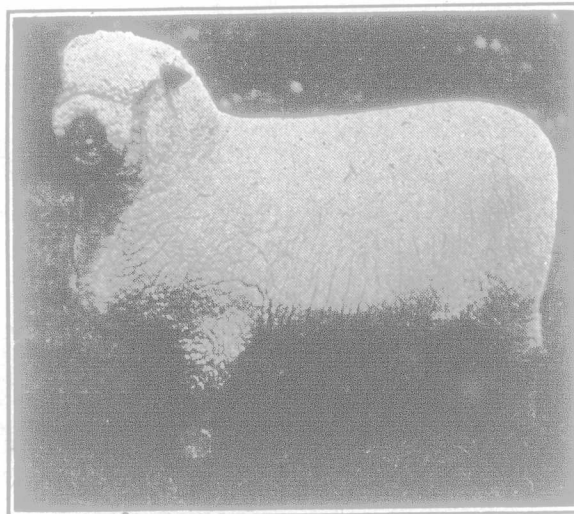
Nettle-Rash in Swine.

A skin disease known as nettle-rash or urticaria is a somewhat common disease of the hog, characterized by the appearance of numerous small, somewhat diamond-shaped elevations upon the skin. These elevations are caused by the exudation of fluid between the layers of the skin.

Causes.—The disease is undoubtedly predisposed to, if not actually caused by the filthy conditions under which pigs are kept in some instances. Irritation of the skin by lice or by nettles is a somewhat common cause of the condition. An outbreak of nettle-rash sometimes follows the use of irritating dips or application in too strong solution. It may follow sudden changes of food or the feeding of certain classes of plants. As a secondary or symptomatic condition, nettle-rash is sometimes as a complication of disturbances of the stomach and bowels. It is probably more often due to this than to any other cause.

Symptoms.—In some cases the local symptoms are preceded for a day or two by indigestion and constipation accompanied by increase of temperature, but in most cases the skin eruption occurs without any previous symptoms. The lesions are noticed as small somewhat flat elevations on the skin, and may be few or very numerous. These elevations are most frequent and most noticeable on the ears, sides of the neck, back of the elbows, inside of the thighs, and along the floor of the abdomen. The spots are swollen, red in color, and vary

in size from that of a pea to that of a fifty-cent piece. In some cases a number of these blotches run together or join to form one large area which may be several inches square. In a few hours the spots begin to fade at the centre and extend to the margin, but the circumference usually remains reddish. There is intense itching noticed, and the patient will scratch and rub himself against the wall, fence, posts or any solid object that he can reach. There is generally noticed a loss of appetite, some fever, restlessness, loss of flesh, and a general unthrifty appearance. This disease of itself is not serious except in the fact that it indicates that there is something wrong with the digestive apparatus or with the manner of feeding or general care. The usual course of the trouble is from four to six days, and the lesions usually disappear without leaving any mark. In quite severe cases blisters may form and the skin scale off over the affected areas.



A Two-shear Shropshire Ram.

Treatment.—Preventive treatment consists in keeping swine in clean feed lots and pens, and keeping them free from lice and other irritating substances. Animals that are kept in dirty, damp, filthy feed lots, or in damp, ill-ventilated, unclean pens, and allowed to wallow in mud, filthy water, etc., cannot be expected to keep free from skin trouble. Lice are an important factor in predisposing to various skin diseases, but also in causing general unthriftiness. When lice are present, of course their destruction should not be neglected. Care must be exercised in selecting for their removal, preparations that will not cause too great irritation to the skin and thereby complicate matters. For this purpose a warm solution of one of the coal-tar antiseptics gives good results, but even this must not be made too strong, while a four or five per cent. solution may in most cases be safely used, it is probably better to not use it stronger than three per cent., as from some cause or reason not readily understood, the skin of some pigs appears to be very sensitive. The animals may be dipped in this preparation, or it may be applied with a sponge or the hand. Animals that have been dipped or washed should be housed for a few hours after the operation, as in cold weather they should be protected from the cold, and in hot weather the effect of the direct rays of the sun may prove injurious. It can readily be understood that there is little use in treating for any skin disease unless at the same time an effective effort be made to clean and keep clean feed lots, pens, etc. Another important point in the prevention of nettle-rash is in feeding so that digestive disorders may not occur.

Curative treatment must be directed, in the first place, to checking the itchiness. For this purpose probably nothing acts more quickly than a strong solution of baking soda, say two ounces to a gallon of water. Another effective dressing is a lotion made of

one ounce each of acetate of lead and sulphate of zinc to a quart of water. These can be used either as a dip, or be sponged on. To act upon the stomach and bowels, and thereby remove the most probable cause of the trouble, a purgative should be given. For this purpose either Epsom salt, or raw linseed oil gives good results, the dose being from one to four tablespoonfuls of either, according to the size of the patient. Of course, for very small animals the dose must be less. The feed should be of a laxative and sloppy nature for a few days, and care taken both in feeding and general care to prevent a recurrence of the trouble.

WHIP.

Well-Stocked Farms are Most Productive.

In travelling through the country, one can fairly accurately pick out the farms, on which a good number of live stock are kept, by the appearance of the crops. Those farms on which the crops are fed back into the soil, through the medium of live stock, are usually considerably more productive than where the crops are sold in bags and bales. It stands to reason that one cannot continue to sell grain and hay off the farm and reap an abundant harvest year after year, unless a large amount of money is expended on commercial fertilizer. Even then there is usually a falling off in production as the commercial fertilizer will not entirely take the place of farm-yard manure. When our farms retained their virgin fertility, the owners become more or less careless about the disposition of the stable manure. One did not particularly need it on the new land, and it was allowed to leach away. Grain farming without the application of farm-yard manure soon takes the heart out of the soil, and the first results are a lessening of the crops in adverse seasons, but soon it becomes more difficult to grow a good crop even in a favorable season. The farms that have been well stocked and well manured hold up year after year and return a good revenue. Not only does manure add plantfood to the soil, but it tends to open up the heavy clay soils and make them more workable. It also makes light soils more retentive of moisture; thus we find it good for all classes of soils. The question frequently arises how much stock should a hundred-acre farm carry? There can be no definite number set, as it depends so much upon the productivity of the soil, but one thing is certain there should be enough animals kept on the farm to consume the roughage grown, and instead of allowing the manure to leach in the barnyard it should be applied to the field to assist in the growing of larger crops that a larger stock might be kept. There are some hundred-acre farms on which not over fifteen to twenty head of cattle, one brood sow and a few head of sheep are kept, while on other farms of like size over thirty head of cattle, two or three brood sows, and a flock of probably twenty ewes are maintained. The more grain that is fed, the stronger will be the manure. On many farms a considerable quantity of concentrates is purchased each year and turned into pork and beef at a profit.

The quality of stock kept should be taken into consideration. The mongrel grade stuff will consume practically as much feed as good grades, or pure-bred stock, but yet return very little revenue. It costs a good deal more to grow a crop to-day than it did ten years ago, and one way to make a profit on it is to feed it to better-bred stock. Because a person has grades is no reason why he should not aim at improvement and keep good grades that will make economical gains in the feed-lot and on pasture.

It is possible to over-stock the farm unless one is prepared to spend a good deal of money in the purchasing of feed. There are instances where a large herd has been kept, but owing to short rations they have come out in the spring in an extremely thin condition. In such cases it requires considerable time on good grass to bring the stock to where it was the fall before. There is



A Worthy Pair of White Faces.

Grand champion Hereford bull and cow at Brandon. Owned by A. B. Cook, Montana.



Rosa Hope 22nd.

Junior champion Shorthorn heifer at Brandon for J. G. Barron.